

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/680,113

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

Applicant(s)

CLOONAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 04/14/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

CHRIS KELLEY

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-27 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to independent claim 1 of the instant invention is directed to a cable modem termination system (CMTS) having front and rear sides, the front side accepting electronic cards, electronic signals from which are transferred through connectors mounted to the rear side. The relevant prior art of record such as **Liva et al (2002/0093966)**, disclose enhanced CMTS for reliability, availability and serviceability. **Palatov (5,740,020)** discloses a computer housing and expansion card design, facilitates addition and removal of expansion cards from the front of a computer housing without disassembling of the housing. **Caldara et al (6,748,474)** discloses a chassis in the form of a mid-plane design, holds equipment that provides communication services. **Clement (5,726,668)** discloses programmable graphics panels in a system. **Struger et al (4,151,580)** disclose a ser of circuit boards mounted side by side and electrical connection is made to terminal pads. However, neither **Liva, Palatov, Caldara, Clement** nor **Struger** and any of the cited references teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the feature of a connector extending through the first opening of the at least one pair of first and second openings and operationally coupled to a corresponding electronic circuit card installed at the front side of the CMTS and a light source, visible through the second opening of at least one pair of first and second openings, the illumination status of which is determined by the corresponding electronic

card, as recited in the instant invention in combination with other features with respect to independent claim 1.

With respect to independent claim 10, neither **Liva, Palatov, Caldara, Clement** nor **Struger** and any of the cited references teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the feature of a connector extending through the first opening of the at least one pair of first and second openings and operationally coupled to a corresponding electronic circuit card installed at the front side of the CMTS, a controller connected to the first electronic circuit card for determining the status of channels associated with the first electronic circuit card and a light source visible through the second opening of at least one pair of first and second openings, the illumination status of which is determined by the controller, as recited in the instant invention in combination with other features with respect to independent claim 10.

With respect to independent claim 19, neither **Liva, Palatov, Caldara, Clement** nor **Struger** and any of the cited references teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the feature of a plurality of slots on the front side for accepting at least one electronic circuit card and a controller connected to each slot for determining whether an electronic circuit card is installed in the corresponding slot on the front side, as recited in combination with other features with respect to independent claim 19.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Budinger et al (6,802,032) disclose method and apparatus for performing system diagnostics on a cable modem termination system using a hand held computing device.

Follingstad et al (6,623,278) discloses high density patching system.

Miles (6,078,504) discloses universal adapter bracket for communications devices.

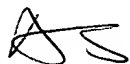
Lau (4,768,961) discloses Jackfield with front removable jack modules having lamp assemblies.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

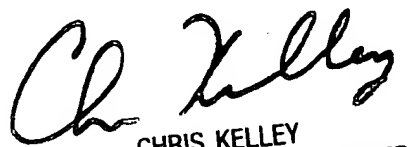
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



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